



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## 08/15/2012 Minutes

Sustainable Arlington  
 August 15, 2012  
 Meeting Minutes

### Present:

Sally Naish, David Landskov, Gail McCormick, Bruce Moulton, DeAnne Dupont, Martine Gougault, Sarah Conn, Charlotte Milan (recording)

Master Planning process begins in Oct, will take 3-5 years to develop and will be the first master plan for the Town

Martine Gougault told us that the Reservoir committee has not discussed the planning process in their meetings.

David told us that the Green Sanctuary Committee at First Parish has not talked about the planning process either.

Sarah Conn told us that Occupy Arlington has touched on it but it's not high on their priority list currently.

### Visitors to the meeting are concerned with:

- Invasive plants- how is the town dealing with them in public places? Natural spaces? What do we have to do to address the issue to prevent further damage? How can the town land be interacted with? There are ecological processes involved. What is the legal framework? How are decisions being made? Are the policies in place good enough?
- Tree canopies- street trees and trees on private properties. Some communities have bylaws about planting trees on private property, contributions to the streetscape, "trees as property" bylaws need review
- Personal connection to trees and nature- psychological connection

### Additional resources: in or near our community include

- Habitat program
- MA and US Department of Forestry
- Government funded programs tend to focus on chemical solutions

### Our discussion framed the following questions:

- Could we assemble an inventory of the extent of the problem of invasive plants?
- Is there, or could there be, a guide/primer about how to deal with invasive; educate the larger population on best practices to eradicate them?

### Ideas for next steps include

- Presentation
- Find a message that will speak to a large number of residents
- Educate landscapers

### Additional factors to consider

- Master Planning committee being formed
- New Economic Development Director has been hired
- Art destination/district has been discussed.
- Tourism and Economic Development committee formed

### Discussion of Arlington's Master Planning process and Vision 2020 Environment Goal

- World Café – likely structure Town will use to receive input from community
- Suggestions made to pay attention to invasive species, trees, heat island effect

- How can Vision 2020 groups be energized to get involved in this process?
- Suggested a questionnaire: what are your highest concerns? What are your suggested solutions?
- Sustainable Arlington role will be to push for looking through a sustainable lens all other topics that will be addressed.
- Reviewed current Vision 2020 environmental goal: seems updated, needs addition of sustainability, climate change, climate mitigation
- Reservoir Committee, Spy Pond Committee, and Sustainable Arlington could come together
- Need more information: How do all the different committees in Town work together? How are they all related to each other?
- Could the master plan reflect the role environmental issues play in all the other aspect of what makes the town function? Could look at the way that all volunteer groups grouped around and issue could help facilitate visioning, planning, strategizing
- DECISION: SA will form a working group – mandate will be reach out other environmental groups in town to strategize about the master planning process

Other Topics discussed:

- DECISION: Sustainable Arlington voted to support the food recovery project
- Solarize Arlington- volunteers are going door to door to identify houses well-suited for solar energy generation, Solar Open Houses start Saturday
- FSPPark clean up Saturday
- Melodeego music video invitation: organize